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A Missouri State Library news service

July 5, 2005

Newsline Extra features time-sensitive information about State Library programs and current news of interest to the Missouri library community.

LearningExpress Library grants available to eligible libraries

Missouri public libraries now have an opportunity to offer online test preparation, career guidance, and skill development materials to their patrons, thanks to Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds from the Missouri State Library.

LearningExpress Library (formerly LearnATest) is a Web-based interactive resource from LearningExpress, a publisher of test preparation and skill building books. With LearningExpress Library, patrons can access practice tests that range from U.S. citizenship to graduate school entrance exams from library computers.

This is the third year the State Library has offered the LearningExpress Library package to public libraries. Previous "LearnATest" grantees may reapply but are required to commit local matching funds. New applicants must be Missouri public libraries eligible for state aid that do not currently subscribe to LearningExpress Library.

The deadline for applications is July 25, 2005. Applications are available at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/lel>. For additional information, contact Marge Kudrna, literacy consultant, at (800) 325-0131, ext. 17, or marge.kudrna@sos.mo.gov.

Public nominations sought for librarian award

Missouri's public librarians know their responsibilities go far beyond keeping track of books. Librarians who offer a high quality of service and reach out to meet the needs of the community make their libraries friendlier and more accessible institutions. To honor public librarians for outstanding public service, the [New York Times Librarian Award](#) asks the public to submit nominations for librarians they know make their library and community a better place.

Each year, 27 librarians from across the United States are selected from public nominations. Each winner receives \$2,500 from the *New York Times* and is invited to receive the prize at an awards ceremony in New York.

Any type of librarian is eligible, including library directors, as long as they provide some kind of direct community services. *The New York Times* also requires nominees to have a master's degree in library science and be actively working full time in a public library.

Nominations are due September 2, 2005, and the State Library encourages Missouri public libraries to make the nomination forms available to the community. Libraries can display ballot boxes and nomination forms to secure nominations, and posters are available as part of the publicity materials.

If your library is interested in participating in this year's program, contact Velma Steinman, Missouri State Library, at (800) 325-0131, ext. 3, or velma.steinman@sos.mo.gov.

Correction: finding local newspapers on microfilm

The June 17 issue of [Newsline Extra](#) featured an article about finding Missouri's newspapers on microfilm. The article recommended librarians contact the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis if the newspapers are unavailable locally. Librarians and patrons should actually contact the [State Historical Society of Missouri](#) in Columbia. Information about the Society's newspaper library is available at <http://www.umsystem.edu/shs/newspaper.html> or by calling the Society at (573) 882-7083, or submitting an [online research request](#).

Summer reading prizes available for Missouri readers

Running Creek Farms, located in Salem, Missouri, is offering Missouri public libraries free passes for children completing summer library programs. Libraries interested in receiving passes can contact Michelle or Sydney at Running Creek Farms at Running_creek_farms@yahoo.com or 1-877-MAZE4YOU.

The proprietors request that libraries use the passes as prizes only for children who complete the library's summer reading program requirements. If you choose to participate, Running Creek Farms asks that you mention them as a corporate partner in any promotion you do for your summer library program. You will be sent a "master" pass, which you can complete with the child's name, the librarian's signature, and the name of the library. In addition, the owners will send you flyers about the maze to post in your library.

The theme for the Farm's giant "Maize Quest" corn maze is knights and dragons. The maze promotes teamwork and problem-solving skills as children and their parents work their way through the larger-than-life maze. This year's season runs from September 2nd to November 5th, with the maze open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Medicare prescription information available through ALA

The [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) and the [American Library Association \(ALA\)](#) recently announced a new project designed to educate community members regarding the new Medicare prescription drug coverage beginning in January 2006.

Through this partnership with CMS, libraries can be an ideal location for patrons to receive information and programming related to the new drug coverage for seniors and people with disabilities. Over the next few months, CMS and ALA will work closely to provide materials and enrollment resources related to the Medicare prescription drug coverage. Local public libraries can highlight the key role they play in promoting and maintaining healthy communities by facilitating outreach events on Medicare's new prescription drug coverage.

CMS and the ALA look forward to developing strong, collaborative relationships at the national, state, and local level. More information about the program will be forwarded as it becomes available.

RIF makes summer reading sweet

This summer, [Reading Is Fundamental](#) (RIF) invites children across the country to take the [Sweet Summer Reading Challenge](#). During the month of July, children between the ages of 5 and 15 can participate in this national summer reading event for the chance to win books, gift cards, t-shirts, and other prizes. Reading logs, official rules, activity sheets, and reading tips are available on the [RIF Web site](#).

RIF is the oldest and largest children's and family nonprofit literacy organization in the United States. RIF prepares and motivates children to read by delivering free books and literacy resources to those children and families who need them most.

To be placed on the e-mail list to receive *Newsline Extra* or to unsubscribe, contact the Missouri State Library at 800-325-0131, ext. 8, or e-mail holly.dentner@sos.mo.gov.

Newsline Extra will be archived for six months on the State Library's Web site at http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/newsline_extra/.

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